

INDIANA TAKES
ABORTION FIGHT
TO SCOTUS
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CABARET POE
AT THE PHOENIX
PAGE 15

Indy's **a** **e** voice

THE VICTOR EFFECT

BY SETH JOHNSON



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2018 BEST OF INDY

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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THISWEEK

“THE Q:

What's your favorite treat to get during a ballgame?

”

// NUVO STAFF



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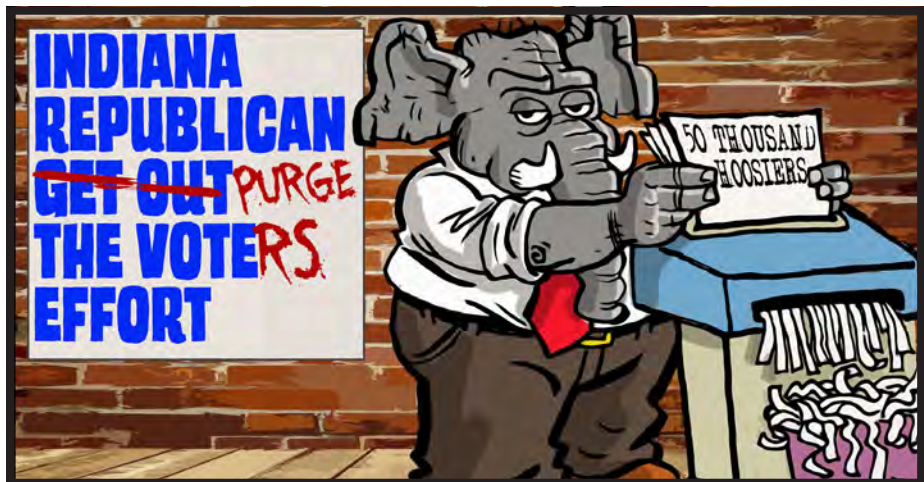


Voters GUIDE

We're now gathering your questions about the election and how to vote in Indiana.
nuvo.net/citycommittee

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BY WAYNE BERTSCH



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INDIANA TAKES ABORTION TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

Attorney General Asks SCOTUS to Reinstate Provisions Lower Court Ruled Unconstitutional

BY LAURA MCPHEE // L MCPHEE@NUVO.NET

One week after the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill is taking abortion to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a filing announced Saturday, Oct. 13, Hill asked that SCOTUS review and reverse a lower court ruling declaring efforts to attach provisions to Indiana's abortion law unconstitutional.

Specifically, Hill is asking that a bill signed by then-Gov. Mike Pence in 2016 be considered.

House Enrolled Act 1337 contained two requirements that are at issue in this case.

First, the law required clinics and/or other healthcare facilities in possession of aborted or miscarried fetuses to dispose of them either by cremation or interment.

Second, HEA 1337 prohibited doctors from performing discriminatory abortions based solely on the race, sex, or disability of the child.

"The Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the non-discrimination provision imposed an undue burden on the right to obtain abortions and the fetal disposition provision fulfills no legitimate government objective—even though, with regard to disposal of fetal remains, the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has found a virtually identical provision in Minnesota to pass constitutional muster," says Hill.

"Nothing in the Constitution prohibits states from requiring health facilities to provide an element of basic human dignity in disposing of fetuses," Hill continues.

"These tiny bodies, after all, are in fact human remains. Further, states have every reason and right to prohibit abortions



from being performed simply as a means of selecting the race, sex, or physical condition of a child. The right to abortion declared by our Supreme Court protects only the decision not to bear a child at all, not a right to decide which child to bear. Our nation knows only too well the bitter fruits of such discrimination."

If the Supreme Court accepts the state's petition, it will release an opinion in the first half of 2019.

On Monday, Oct. 15, Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky responded to Hill's motion.

"It's disappointing that the state of Indiana continues to defend these unconstitutional and medically unnecessary abortion restrictions," said PPINK President and CEO Christie Gillespie.

"By appealing to the Supreme Court, the state of Indiana is trying to not only chip away at Hoosiers' rights, but also threaten the rights of people seeking safe and legal abortion care across the country. If they truly want to reduce the need for abortion in Indiana, our legislators should focus on expanding access to affordable birth control and comprehensive sex education, not blocking patients' access to care."

HEA 1337 is one of many cases in recent years where Indiana has passed laws intended to impede a woman's right to an abortion, only to have the courts rule those laws unconstitutional.

In July 2018, the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Indiana law requiring women to get an ultrasound 18 hours before an abortion created an undue

burden and is unconstitutional.

In June, the court struck down Senate Enrolled Act 340, which required health care providers to annually report 26 abortion complications to the Indiana State Department of Health. It also required doctors to disclose the age, education, marital status and race of the woman who receives an abortion and track of the number of abortions each patient has had.

The law Hill is now taking to SCOTUS, HEA 1337 was struck down in September 2017. At that time, U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt issued the injunction against provisions requiring a funeral for an aborted fetus and that the fetus has certain rights are unconstitutional.

The ruling also struck down the part of HEA 1337 aimed at prohibiting abortions if a fetus was diagnosed with Down Syndrome or other genetically-inherited diseases.

The state attempted to apply anti-discrimination rules to abortion law, but Pratt said that "circuit courts have consistently held that any type of outright ban on pre-viability abortions is unconstitutional."

In her ruling, Pratt said HEA 1337 would violate U.S. Supreme Court precedents protecting a women's right to choose an abortion before a fetus is viable and the right of privacy in making that decision.

Passing these laws, defending them in court, and losing is costing Indiana taxpayers millions. Last year, an investigation by *The Times of Northwest Indiana* found that Indiana already has paid out \$2,831,532.99 in legal fees to the ACLU since 2011, including \$302,889.87 during the 2017 budget year, \$668,385.13 in 2016, and \$433,675.92 in 2015. ■

CASTING AN INFORMED VOTE IN JUDICIAL RACES

How To Decide What Candidates You Support for Retention

BY **ROB BURGESS** // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

When voters head to the polls on Election Day, Nov. 6, they will make their way through all the familiar races including Senate, House, and a myriad of local candidates.

After they get through all that, they'll be asked a series of questions for which they may not be prepared even if they studied the rest of the races closely.

They'll be asked if Indiana Supreme Court Justice Geoffrey G. Slaughter should be retained.

Then, they'll be asked if Court of Appeals—District 2 Judge Robert R. “Bob” Altice, Jr. should be retained.

And, then, voters will be asked the same question 17 more times as it relates to Marion County Superior Court judges.

Overwhelmed yet?

As NUVO found out when these judges were sent the Midterm Voters Guide questions submitted by our readers, it only gets more challenging from there.

MERIT SELECTION

The following judges are up for retention in the Marion County Superior Court: Lisa F. Borges, Linda E. Brown, Sheila A. Carlisle, John M. T. Chavis II, Steven R. Eichholtz, Alicia A. Gooden, Clayton A. Graham, John F. Hanley, Grant W. Hawkins, Amy M. Jones, James A. Joven, Helen W. Marchal, William J. Nelson, Clark H. Rogers, Jose D. Salinas, Mark D. Stoner, and Heather Welch.

But, you won't be hearing from any of them.

“Thank you for your commitment to providing voters with information about the upcoming election,” wrote Emily A. VanOsdol, court administrator for the



Marion Superior Court, to NUVO on Sept. 14.

“Unfortunately, the judges are unable to respond to reader questions related to cases that could come before the Marion Superior Court or questions that would require them to champion their own retention.”

VanOsdol pointed to the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 4 and Rule 2.1, which specifically prevents judges on the retention ballot from campaigning. “The policy behind these rules is so the public can have confidence in the judiciary’s duty to remain impartial,” stated VanOsdol.

Marion County moved to a merit selection process to choose and retain its Superior Court judges in 2017. All

incumbent Marion Superior Court judges appeared before the selection committee for a recommendation as to whether they should be retained. The committee unanimously recommended retention for all 17 incumbent judges who will appear on the November ballot. If retained, the judge is on the retention ballot at the end of every six-year term.

“They can’t campaign. They can’t answer questions,” said Rhea Cain, president of the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis. “Yeah, they’re on the ballot, but no one knows much about them. They don’t know what they’ve decided, but yet we’re supposed to put them in office.”

So, how should voters educate themselves?

VOTER EDUCATION

Kathryn Dolan, Indiana Supreme Court chief public information officer, told NUVO on Sept. 17 that Justices Slaughter and Altice were under similar constraints.

Indiana has used a merit selection process to choose and retain its appellate judges for the past 46 years. Once appointed, a judge must stand for retention at the first statewide general election after the judge has served for two full years. If retained, the judge is on the retention ballot every 10 years.

Dolan said the court created a website to help educate voters, courts.in.gov/retention, which contains biographical information, video of oral arguments, and the ability to search decisions written or voted on by the judges.

Oct. 4, the Indiana State Bar Association completed its compilation of the 2018 Judicial Retention Poll responses. ISBA members were electronically surveyed from Sept. 13 to 30. Of the 10,530 members polled, 968 cast ballots, and the results overwhelmingly favored retention of Slaughter (90.35 percent) and Altice (89.67 percent).

For Marion County Superior Court judges, Cain suggested voters visit the Indianapolis Bar Association Judicial Survey at www.indyjudges.org.

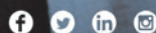
“This is from lawyers who work with these judges,” she said. “I think this would be a good resource and I’ve shared it with folks when they’ve asked. ... I can make it available to them, but this is proprietary information on these sites.”

Cain said additional information from the LWV is available at vote411.org. ■

A close-up portrait of a middle-aged Black man with a slight smile, wearing a grey button-down shirt over a black t-shirt. The background is blurred.

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BY **SETH JOHNSON** // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

Take the last few weeks, for example.

Eight days later, Oladipo appeared alongside former Vice President Joe Biden at a rally in Hammond where he endorsed Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly. After expressing his love for Indiana, the All-Star guard urged Hoosiers to “Vote Joe,” making a bold political statement in a state that’s historically red.

But make no mistake. While Oladipo has his hand in all sorts of extracurricular activities, there's no questioning his prowess on the basketball court.

After being traded to the Pacers in a deal that sent Paul George to the Oklahoma City Thunder, Oladipo had a breakout 2017-18 season, averaging 23 points and earning the league's Most Improved Player award. Oladipo's efforts emboldened a young Pacers team, which finished the season with a 48-34 regular season record and pushed LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers to seven games in a first-round playoff series.

// PHOTO BY LORA OLIVE



SINGING IN THE SHOWER

It's 2018 Pacers Media Day, and Victor Oladipo is up at the podium. Knowing his love for music, I ask if he had a song or artist of the summer.

"That's pretty tough, man," he says. "I'm a real big Lil Baby fan. That's what I listen to right now. It gets me ready for the games. It gets me ready for life in general honestly."

He continues, "Eminem had a crazy album that just dropped that was awesome. It's crazy to see how he hasn't lost anything really. Some great music dropped this summer. Hopefully, mine drops pretty soon."

Music is not a new love for Oladipo. "I used to sing in the choir," he shares with me one day after practice. "Probably when I was 7 years old is when I started."

Over time, he began to realize he had a gift for singing.

"I just started getting better and better," he says. "I didn't know until I was in high school that it even sounded good. Hopefully, I continue to keep having opportunities to share music with the world."

Spend a few minutes with Oladipo off the court, and you're sure to get a taste of his vocal range. "[You'll hear him singing in the] locker room, shower, anything," says Myles Turner. "He's just an exuberant guy. He's always up. It's a good thing because it gets everybody else in a good mood too."

New Pacers addition Kyle O'Quinn says Oladipo uses his singing in the process of recruiting players to come to Indy.

"A guy like Vic can pull people here," O'Quinn says. "He makes that FaceTime call

and gets to singing on there.

I think he's in a

good place, and he's not really surprising people that have seen him since day one."



// PHOTO BY HALEY WARD

Much like O'Quinn, Doug McDermott and Tyreke Evans were drawn to the Pacers because of the team's chemistry.

"You could just tell from day one they care about each and every player," McDermott says. "It's like a family here. Everyone is in it together from top to bottom. It's just a great overall environment."

This atmosphere is one that's fueled by Oladipo and his character, says Pacers starting point guard Darren Collison.

"He's the reason why the whole team is so positive," Collison says. "With him being the best player and him being so positive, you've got no choice but to be positive. I can't say enough about Victor. That's how he was last year, and that's how he always is. That's how it's always going to be."

A four-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA champion with the Indiana Fever, Tamika Catchings could be on a list of Indiana's all-time great sports stars. Currently working

**"HE'S THE
REASON WHY
THE WHOLE
TEAM IS SO
POSITIVE."**

—DARREN COLLISON



// PHOTO BY PHIL TAYLOR

as the director of player programs and franchise development with Pacers Sports and Entertainment, she now has a front row view of Oladipo's impact on this Pacers team.

"From the Pacers side, [he brings] a new life," Catchings says. "Not to say that any of our other stars before didn't have it. But

you look at him and what he represents: he's always smiling, singing, laughing, and having a good time. He keeps things light."

When it's time to ball out, however, Oladipo makes sure to buckle down and give it all he's got. Those who watched the Pacers last season are fully aware of that as well.

"When you step on the floor with Victor, it's serious business," says Kevin Pritchard, Pacers president of basketball operations. "And then, he has this great way of saying, 'Okay. Now we're off the floor. Let's have some fun.' He hits that reset button of serious and having fun better than any person I've ever been around."

BIRD OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

It's not often that you hear of an NBA team meeting up in the summer prior to the start of training camp. This Pacers team, however, doesn't go by the book.

At the request of Victor Oladipo, the entire Pacers team (aside from Bojan Bogdanovic who was playing for his national team in the FIBA World Cup Qualifiers in Europe) made their way down to Miami for an off-season mini-camp a month before the team's official training camp kicked off in September.

Over the course of the week, players got to know each other a little bit better at the camp, taking part in fun non-basketball activities as well like bowling and Topgolf. Oladipo made sure he covered the dinner tabs too.

"I think that was a huge step for Vic as a leader," says McDermott, who finished the 2017-18 season as a member of the Dallas Mavericks. "I thought it was really good that we were all around each other for a week down there, not just on the floor but off the floor."

After building such great chemistry with last year's team, head coach Nate McMillan saw the mini-camp as a great way to head into this new Pacers season. "I think Victor understands how important it is for the team to be connected," says McMillan, who let Oladipo handle the mini-camp on his own. "I wanted the coaches to stay away from that. That was a moment and a time for them [the players], and I thought it was important that they handle that on their own."

Much like McDermott, Turner saw Oladipo's mini-camp as an excellent leadership move.

"He had all the accolades and stuff coming in last year, but it didn't really change who he was as a person or as a team player," Turner says. "To be able to have one of your leaders step up and do something like that and



// PHOTO BY LORA OLIVE



[have] guys to be able to fall in line with him just like that is huge.”

Currently, the color analyst for Indiana Pacers games on Fox Sports Indiana, Quinn Buckner also played for the 1975-76 Indiana University basketball team that went undefeated under Coach Bob Knight. He knows full well how important chemistry is to a winning basketball squad.

“I think Victor’s unique in that he brings this terrific work ethic,” Buckner says. “He has an inclusive perspective on the way things need to be done. But he will challenge you and accept challenges from his teammates. I think that allows chemistry to become better.”

Having such a hand in the team’s chemistry, Oladipo’s effervescence rubs off on other players as well. “It’s all smiles, it’s all positive chemistry,” Collison says. “This is our second year, and everybody enjoys being around each other. It’s just genuine. You just feel it.”

Looking at the bigger picture, Pritchard hopes this Victor effect will draw more talented players to Indianapolis.

“This is the first year in a long time where when we went out into the free agent market, people said, ‘This is a place I’d wanna be,’” Pritchard says. “I think that starts with your culture.”

He continues, “I think we have a chance to create something really good this year. If we do and we have a successful year, that’ll build on itself and you’ll see other elite players say,

UPCOMING PACERS HOME GAMES //

Pacers vs. Grizzlies, Oct. 15
Pacers vs. Nets, Oct. 20
Pacers vs. Trail Blazers, Oct. 29

‘I wanna be a part of that.’”

Headed into the 2018-19 NBA season, the Pacers will still carry the same underdog status as they did last year and know many NBA analysts and audiences are overlooking them.

“We’re still the underdogs in this league,” Collison says. “We’re still the underdogs in the Eastern Conference. No matter what we did last year, people still don’t respect us, and that’s fine with us.”

Like last season, the Pacers will again need Oladipo to come poised and ready to play every single game, which is a challenge he’s fully up for.

“I believe if you just take it one day at a time and try to win today and win one day at a time, then everything else will take care of itself,” says the man responsible for The Victor Effect.

“I think that’s why we were so good last year. We didn’t look too far ahead, and we didn’t look behind us. We just focused on the there and now.” ■



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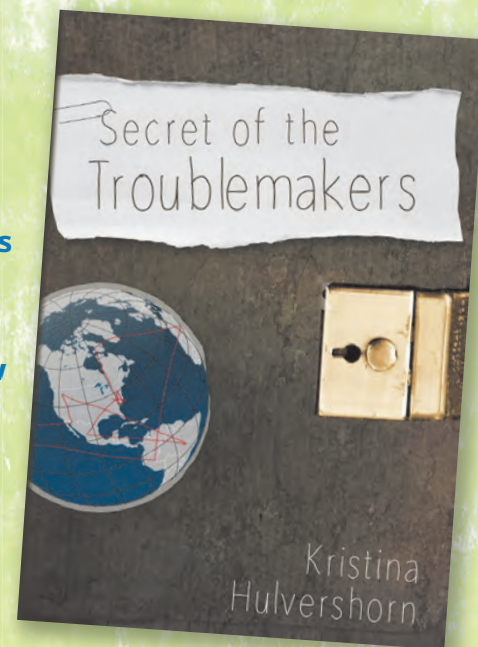
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NOT YOUR AVERAGE FIELDHOUSE FOOD

Bankers Life Teams With Local Restaurants for Game-Day Options

BY **SETH JOHNSON** // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

When attending a sporting event, you can usually count on the typical stadium food standbys: hot dogs, pizza, and nachos. None of it particularly noteworthy.

This season, however, Pacers fans will have a refreshing selection of local food options to choose from while cheering on the blue and gold.

"We're always looking for new ways to make the experience better," says Rick Fuson, president of Pacers Sports & Entertainment. "Arenas and stadiums have been known for hot dogs, chicken fingers, popcorn, pop, and beer, but we have so much to be proud of about our food experience in Indianapolis."

Heading into the Pacers 2018-19 season, Bankers Life Fieldhouse has teamed up with several local culinary partners to improve the dining experience at games and events. Many much-loved Indianapolis restaurants will now have options available at the arena, including Cunningham Restaurant Group (Bru Burger and Tavern at the Point), Garden Table, Jack's Donuts, Just Pop In!, Levy Restaurants, Mimi Blue Meatballs, Oca, and Subito.

At an event last Wednesday, Bankers Life Fieldhouse executive chef Chris Albano gave guests a sneak peak of the many local offerings basketball fans can indulge in this year.

"The Fieldhouse is a piece of Indianapolis, and I think it should be a place where we can showcase the great things that are going on in the city from a food standpoint," Albano says. "I think it gives the fans something exciting to have when they're at the game watching the Pacers. It's just new options and something different, making it a destination."

Here are the new local food options you can expect to find this season at the Fieldhouse.



BRISKET NACHOS
BY TAVERN AT THE POINT //

BRU BURGER, LOCATED IN LIGHTBOUND COURTSIDE CLUB AND AT MEL AND HERB'S BURGER CO. (SECTION 104)

Regularly voted one of Indy's best local burger joints, Bru Burger will offer Bankers Life Fieldhouse visitors unique burger options. "Look for game day special burgers to pop up," Albano says. "We'll rotate them throughout the season."

GARDEN TABLE, LOCATED IN SECTION 7 AND IN SUITES

Healthy food options are usually few and far between when attending a sporting event. This will now change at Pacers games, thanks to Garden Table. "I think bringing healthier options into the Fieldhouse is important—getting away from the standard nachos and beer," says Garden Table co-owner Greg Harden. "We're trying to offer something for everybody. It's always a task to try and do that—that's why it hasn't been done before."



THE NEW YORKER BURGER
BY BRU BURGER //

JACK'S DONUTS, LOCATED AT SNACK SHOPS IN SECTIONS 4, 16, 202, AND 217

Rather than chowing down on some cotton candy, satisfy that sweet tooth with a donut from one of Indy's best. Purchase blue and gold donut holes at any of the Snack Shops listed above, or top your own donut at a station in Section 17.

JUST POP IN!, LOCATED AT VARIOUS CONCESSION STANDS AND SUITES

Just Pop In! specializes in gourmet popcorn. Instead of going the traditional popcorn route, Bankers Life Fieldhouse visitors can treat themselves to something a little different from this local favorite.

LEVY RESTAURANTS, LOCATED IN VARIOUS SPOTS THROUGHOUT THE FIELDHOUSE

Levy Restaurants will offer up several plant-based options, including Impossible Chorizo Potato Tacos (found at concession stands and suites), an Impossible Burger, and an Indy Poke Bowl.

MIMI BLUE MEATBALLS, LOCATED IN SECTION 6

Mimi will be serving three different meatball sliders at Bankers Life Fieldhouse this season. These include a traditional meatball slider, a bacon meatball slider, and a braised brisket slider. "The classic meatball is our No. 1 seller," says Josh Johnson, culinary director at Mimi Blue Meatballs. "That's what we're known for, so that was an obvious choice."

OCA, LOCATED IN SECTION 13

A café under the umbrella of Smoking Goose Meatery, Oca is located in Sun King's downtown taproom. One of the signature Oca items guests will find at Bankers Life Fieldhouse is the Batali sandwich, topped with coppa, capocollo, soppressata, tomato jam, giardiniera, provolone, lettuce, mayo, and pickled red onion.

TAVERN AT THE POINT, LOCATED IN LIGHTBOUND COURTSIDE CLUB, SUITES, AND VARSITY CLUB

Mass Ave regulars will be familiar with this tasty offering from Tavern at the Point. The restaurant will be serving up their brisket nachos at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, which are topped with beer cheese, pico de gallo, jalapeño, cilantro, radish, and crema.

SUBITO, LOCATED IN SECTIONS 6 AND 231

Located near Bankers Life Fieldhouse at 44 Virginia Ave., Subito specializes in soups, salads, and sandwiches. "We'll be having a monthly soup special and a couple of paninis," Albano says of Subito's options at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. **N**



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OCT.
24

WHAT // Author Rebecca Skloot
WHERE // Northview Middle School
TICKETS // **FREE**

OCT.
25

WHAT // Author Jennifer Haupt
WHERE // Jewish Community Center
TICKETS // \$10

ROBERT SIEGEL //



A TALK WITH ROBERT SIEGEL

*Longtime All Things Considered Co-Host
Coming to Ann Katz Festival at JCC*

BY **DAN GROSSMAN** // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

When he retired as co-host of *All Things Considered* in January of this year, Robert Siegel was one of the signature voices of National Public Radio.

The New York-born Siegel was hired by NPR in 1976. From 1979 to 1983, he was based in London, where he opened NPR's first overseas bureau. In 1987, he became a host on *All Things Considered*, which is currently the most listened to drive-time radio news show in the U.S.

Siegel covered the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1990. He also covered 9/11, when he happened to be in New York. During the 2008 earthquake in Chengdu, China, he reported from the quake epicenter.

This week, Siegel appears in Indianapolis at the Jewish Community Center's Ann Katz Festival of Books and Arts, in conversation with WFYI's Jill Sheridan.

We talked to Robert Siegel ahead of his visit. You can read the full interview at nuvo.net

NUVO: When I think of the NPR voice, I think of a calm, conversational voice that can deliver upsetting information without a pause or a false note. Can you recall a moment when you had trouble maintaining that calm?

ROBERT SIEGEL: Well, I did in the last show. I was on the verge of crying in that. 9/11 was also very testing. I was in the middle of the city that I grew up in, a New Yorker who's been living out of town for 40 years. And that was very trying.

What I remembered at that moment was that, when I first got bitten by this idea of doing radio news, I was in college at Columbia University and there were huge protests and police busts and a great deal of confusion. I worked at the radio station and we decided to cover all of these events. I felt useful. I wouldn't have protested, I wouldn't have counterprotested; it was not in my personality. But if I helped sort out what was going on, and questioned different parties to the conflict and dispelled certain rumors—and reminded people what was happening—then instead of feeling totally at sea and useless, I'd feel like, boy, I'm doing something useful.

WHAT // An Evening with Robert Siegel
WHEN // Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
WHERE // Ann Katz Festival at the JCC
TICKETS // \$20 jccindy.org

That feeling came back to me on 9/11 which was the most trying thing to cover. And I didn't find it hard to be a fairly calm presenter of unpleasant news because it reminded me of why I do this. We can't just get hysterical in the news media. That's not useful.

NUVO: Did you talk in that calm voice before you joined NPR?

SIEGEL: [Laughs.] When I hear old tapes of myself it's very painful. And really for the first 20 years that I was on the radio, I was hoping that I would sound more older and authoritative than I was.

NUVO: Was that kind of conversational tone unheard of when NPR began or was it part of a trend?

SIEGEL: The idea of presenting the news in a very conversational way was an idea in the air in the late 1960s and early '70s. And NPR was part of that movement.

And I'll go further. There was a hole—this is all about the baby boom and it's all about the civil rights era and the Vietnam War—the news media stood out with very old-fashioned, very formal voice of God presentations in which journalists didn't talk like human beings. They barked at you.

NPR from the start, or at least from the moment Susan Stamberg became the host of NPR in 1971, is presenting the news in a different way and within a year or two of that *New York Magazine* was doing journalism that read like novels.

The newsroom format in public television, in which reporters talked out their stories rather than presented them, was coming about so there was a general mood and people especially believed that the news media—the people who write to them and talk to them—shouldn't sound like they're coming out of 1925. **N**

Continued online

OCT.
21EVENT // *Holmes & Watson*
WHERE // IRT
TICKETS // starts at \$25OCT.
19EVENT // Stringtown Art Walk
WHERE // Westside Bait & Tackle
TICKETS // FREE

CABARET POE AT THE PHOENIX

*Macabre Musical Celebrates
10 Years at New Venue*

BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET



BERENICE PLAYED BY JULIE LYN BARBER //

I took in *Cabaret Poe* last weekend for the first time, where, much to my delight and discomfort, I found myself being stared down by one of the actors near the end of the first act.

It was the character Morella (played by Georgeanna Smith Wade) who had come into the audience with a stern expression in reaction to my amusement. I looked away and then back and she was still giving me the evil eye.

She kept in character the whole time, oozing all the emotional charm of a professional ghoul.

There must have been many such icy stares in the now 10-year-history of Q Artistry's *Cabaret Poe*. This year, the Phoenix Theatre is presenting the musical in its versatile black box theater and sharing producing credit with Q.

Director Ben Asaykwee discovered the Poe poem "Annabelle Lee" in 2007, and that was all it took to inspire the show. In his director's notes Asaykwee writes, "I fell in love."

"Up to that point, I had only experienced the words of one of America's literary geniuses through required reading in high school and the occasional pop culture mention."

Asaykwee, who recited "Annabelle Lee" during last Friday's performance, plays the role of Zoilus. The name comes from a character who meets his untimely end in a Poe short story, as so many of them do. The role of Zoilus is akin to the emcee in that other *Cabaret*—the movie version starring Joel Grey and Liza Minnelli.

Morella and Berenice (Julie Lyn Barber) accompanied Zoilus in reciting the best known Poe poems or, as in the case of "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Tell-Tale

WHAT // *Cabaret Poe*

WHEN // Through Nov. 4

WHERE // Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre

TICKETS // Phoenixtheatre.org

Heart," acted out these macabre stories.

In this year's production, Morella is played on alternating dates by Renae Stone and Georgeanna Smith while Berenice's alternate is Jaddy Ciucci. There's also the masked shadow dancer, dressed in a body-hugging green leotard (Rebekah Taylor) doing her part to keep things appropriately ghoulish.

In addition to a committed cast, the wardrobe certainly helps keep things ghoulish. The women wear black Victorian-style dresses, while Asaykwee presents like Grandpa Munster. And the set design adds to the effect. That is, the stage is austere—like an

abandoned netherworld walkway.

There's also a three piece band—drums, piano, cello—accompanying the performers as they sing about all the dastardly goings on "here at Cabaret Poe," giving a sort of musical prologue for the dramas presented.

The plots in the Poe stories Q Artistry presents are pretty simple, so the actors are able to get to the climaxes pretty quickly. Of course there's all kinds of reductions and additions to the original Poe text, made out of necessity, in bringing these works to the stage.

Even in abbreviated form, however, there is a psychological resonance to these stories that feels particularly modern.

In "The Tell-Tale Heart," the unnamed narrator hears a dead man's beating heart. You might imagine a serial killer going through a similar psychological disturbance today.

Out of all the Poe short stories that serve as fodder for *Cabaret Poe*, it's the finale, "The Masque of the Red Death," that feels most contemporary.

In "The Masque," a plague threatens the surrounding countryside. Prince Prospero's solution is to basically close up his castle, like Ethan Hawke's character in *The Purge*, but with enough provisions and live entertainment to to outlast the destruction outside.

It's human nature to be scared shitless of our own shadows, however, and Prince Prospero's bunker mentality can only last so long.

During the performance Zoilus and company bring in the occasional pop culture reference. But I'm not sure if, when Assaykwee shouts out "I'm gonna party like it's 1999," it's really needed to underscore the precarious state of the world outside our own private Idahos.

While Edgar Allan Poe wasn't universally appreciated in his time, he did have a band of devoted followers. This included the poet Charles Baudelaire who translated his works into French in the 1850s, and considered Poe to be not just a writer, but a philosopher.

Perhaps the highest praise I can give *Cabaret Poe* is that it has ignited in me the desire to read everything Poe ever wrote. Like Asaykwee, I didn't really take to the Poe poems that I was forced to read in high school.

I'm wondering what the next Q Artistry production will inspire me to do. ■

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BEERBUZZ



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HALLOWEEN THEMES AND PUMPKIN FLAVORS

BY RITA KOHN // RKOHN@NUVO.NET

The Headless Horseman Festival continues at **Conner Prairie** over the next two weekends. Together with **Sun King Brewing**, Conner Prairie has announced "Ichabrewed Crane" as the official name of the festival brew, chosen from more than 600 submissions. Commemorative growlers showcasing the art for "Ichabrewed Crane," a spiced, herbed copper ale, will be available from The Conner Prairie Store and at Sun King's Fisher's taproom.

"Returning favorites include the Headless Horseman marionette show, barrel train rides, 100-foot potato sack slides, midway games, spooky storytelling, the fortune-telling powers of the Mystic and shows and of course, the Headless Horseman himself," according to the news release.

Wondering who's brewing up the best pumpkin beer in Indiana? It might just be **Bier's Pumpkin Ale** considering these wins:

- Gold Medal at 2018 Indiana Brewer's Cup
- Silver Medal at 2018 World Beer Cup (Nashville, Tennessee)
- Silver Medal at 2018 Best of Craft Beer Awards (Portland, Oregon)
- The only pumpkin beer listed by Beer Advocate in 2018 100-best IN beers, at #45
- Bronze Medal at 2016 Indiana Brewers' CupRated #16 on Beer Advocate's 50 top Pumpkin Beers

•Silver Medal at 2013 Indiana Brewers' Cup
Mad Anthony reports, "This year's batch of Drunkun Punkun, aged for two years in Buffalo Trace Bourbon barrels, is at all Mad Anthony Brewing locations and Shigs In Pit BBQ & Brew."

Meanwhile, word on the street is pumpkin beers will be featured, along with other Fall brews, at the **2nd annual Brewers of Indiana Guild Halloween-Themed Broad Ripple Beer Fest** at Opti Park on Oct. 27. Wear a costume, support charity partner Asante Children's Theatre; have fun, do good, and enjoy pours from more than 30

local brewers.

Scarlet Lane is opening their Old Southside Tap House at 2033 S. Meridian St. on Friday, Oct. 19. "We will be doing \$4 pints and \$8 growler fills all month to celebrate the opening," announced Nick Servies, Scarlet Lane co-founder.

Also on Friday, **Upland** is partnering with the **Indiana History Center** for another Who-dunit? hands-on sleuthing experience 7-10 p.m.; "The Case of the Flagrant Philanderer."

"For the program, we turn our building into a life-sized Clue-inspired experience," said Callie McCune, IHS program developer. "Visitors will question witnesses, follow clues, and examine evidence to solve the who, what, and where of an actual 1920s murder from Southern Indiana. We've found some fun ways to highlight Champaign Velvet, a pre-prohibition style Pilsner (which has a long, storied history here in Indiana)."

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the **Round Town Brewery** 2nd anniversary party starts at noon. Founder Max Schenk emailed, "Help us celebrate two years pouring beers! There will be food, music, games, new merch, beer (duh) and more!"

Ash & Elm released Pawpaw Cider. "We wild-foraged 100 lbs of fruit from native pawpaw trees in Indiana forests. The finished cider is semi sweet and has bright tropical mango notes with a creamy, custard-like mouthfeel.

New Day Meadery launched the Indiana premiere of "Mead Spritzers" at Irish Fest following an initial introduction at the Meadful Things festival. 4-pk cans now are available on store shelves, [I spotted them at Kahn's at Keystone], bars and at New Day's Fountain Square tasting room. Tia Agnew describes the wildflower-based trio of Ginger Hibiscus Spritzer, Lavender Lemond Spritzer, and Pineapple Spritzer as a response to customer request. **N**



PATRICK STICKLES//
PHOTO BY RAY CONCEPCION

STAYING STRONG WITH TITUS ANDRONICUS

Brooklyn Punk Band Headed to The Bishop in Bloomington

BY SETH JOHNSON // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

Over the course of the band's history, Titus Andronicus has written a Civil War-themed concept album, as well as a five-part rock opera. With 2018's *A Productive Cough*, the overarching theme is a little less majestic.

"Emotionally speaking, the record is very much about trying to look within to find a certain inner strength that will carry you through the drudgery of our day-to-day existence," says frontman Patrick Stickles. "I often need to remind myself that life is a struggle, but you just gotta keep at it. By hook or by crook, you can't give up."

On Thursday, Oct. 18, Titus Andronicus will visit The Bishop in Bloomington with opening support from Portland, Oregon band Summer Cannibals. This fall tour marks the Brooklyn group's first full-band tour in two years, ending Stickles' recent stint of solo gigs.

With roots in the DIY community, Titus Andronicus first visited Bloomington on one of their very first tours, performing at a house venue simply known as the State House. "We booked that tour all ourselves on a website called Myspace," Stickles says with a laugh. "We found out about a venue

WHAT // Titus Andronicus
WHEN // Thursday, Oct. 18
WHERE // The Bishop (Bloomington)
TICKETS // thebishopbar.com

called the State House [in Bloomington], which was actually just these guys' house. We showed up to the house, brought the amplifiers into the basement, and just had a grand ole time." Since then, Titus Andronicus has clearly grown in notoriety, but not without support from the DIY community along the way.

"When we were just starting out, people were taking a chance on us and letting us get up on the stage so that we could grow and gain confidence," Stickles says. "It was invaluable, and it would've been a lot more difficult to do that at these more corporate pay-to-play nightclubs that are only really concerned with their bottom line."

In reflecting on the Titus Andronicus catalog, Stickles sees each of the band's albums as being tied together by a specific concept, although he admits that some are more blatantly themed than others. "*The Monitor* and the rock opera album [*The*

Most Lamentable Tragedy] just smacked you in the face a little bit more," he says. "I look at an album as a collection of tunes, but it also has to have a certain thematic unity in the things that it's talking about, in the same way that a movie or a novel does." With this being said, *A Productive Cough* could best be described as an album about staying strong despite "the nightmare that is our modern life."

"You've gotta keep pushing that boulder to the top of the hill, even if it's probably going to slip and fall," Stickles says. "It's the pushing that matters. It's the journey, not the destination."

With two years of solo touring under his belt, the Titus Andronicus vocalist looks to bring some of what he gained from those stripped-down shows into the mix with this current full-band outing.

"Playing solo and being naked and vulnerable up there forced me to confront a lot of the fears that I still had as an artist," Stickles says. "I'm looking forward to seeing if I can take some of those lessons that I learned from those solo acoustic shows and apply them to the rock band format, approaching that with a little more fearlessness." ■

A TOAST TO THE TREES

Musicians Unite in Support of Indiana Forest Alliance

Liz Pinnick loves her Indiana forests.

"I've always been an environmentalist and believe in justice," Pinnick says. "I worry about how politics can affect our lives, sometimes adversely, especially when it comes to our environment."

Having volunteered with the Indiana Forest Alliance for just over two years now, Pinnick has decided to organize a big benefit show in support of the nonprofit, which dedicates itself to protecting and restoring Indiana's native hardwood forests.

Slated for **Saturday, Oct. 20, Toast to the Trees** will take place at the **Indy Hostel in Broad Ripple** from 5 to 10 p.m. Billed as "a concert for the forest," the benefit show will feature a diverse lineup of local acts, including Blackberry Jam, Midwest Rhythm Exchange, Papa Warfleigh's Funk Revival, Pork & Beans Brass Band, and There Are Ghosts.

Through the event, Pinnick ultimately hopes that more people will learn about the Indiana Forest Alliance and the important work they are doing statewide.

"Every state is looking for something to attract people, and I think trees could be ours, especially our state forests," Pinnick says. "I just want people to know how important state forests are, and that we all need to participate to make sure that they are important today as well as 100 years from now."

Costumes are also welcome at this pre-Halloween Game of Thrones-themed shindig. Tickets to the all-ages event are \$10 and can be purchased in advance or day-of-show.

Visit indianaforestalliance.org for more information.

—SETH JOHNSON



THERE ARE GHOSTS //

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR DIOP

Indy Artist Makes a Statement with Latest Project

BY SETH JOHNSON // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

In recent years, Diop Adisa has become a staple of the local hip-hop scene, even landing a song on Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* Netflix series. After chatting with him for just a few minutes, though, one will quickly realize that the Indianapolis native is much more than just a rapper.

"I use the art as a way to build community and impact people," he says. "I use critical conversation as a way to build community and empower community. All of these are just different tools and mediums grounded in what I'm passionate about."

After dropping his *Flow Flexin'* project in 2017, Adisa (who releases music under his first name) returned this October with his most all-encompassing effort to date. With guest appearances from Allison Victoria, Baby Ebony, Kid, and Willis, *Still Shinin'* is an album rooted in Adisa's commitment to his community. Unlike previous projects, *Still Shinin'* also features production work from Adisa, rather than longtime production partner Mandog. This being said, every track on *Still Shinin'* was made entirely by Diop, from the beats to the rhymes.

With roots in Indy's Near Northside, Adisa grew up off of 25th and Boulevard, in between Ivy Tech and Watkins Park. Although his parents were both electrical engineers, they chose to raise Adisa and his sister in a predominantly Black community instead of relocating to a more affluent suburb.

"My parents weren't always the same type of parents as some of the peers in my neighborhood," Adisa says. "They were heavy into Pan-Africanism and Black nationalism. So when me and my sister were born, they gave us African names to culturally reflect us and provide us with meaning and identity."

From an early age, Adisa learned the importance of community through his parents, witnessing cooperative living and working models firsthand. For this reason, he's still passionate about his community



today—a theme heard throughout the lyrics on *Still Shinin'*.

"My parents don't believe in the separation between I and we, so there's nothing you do that doesn't impact the broader community," says Adisa, who has long been involved with Indianapolis' Kheprw Institute. "Moving through life knowing that everything is interconnected just makes you understand why it's important to always be there for the community and always be a resource."

he pushes the envelope when it comes to creating a soundscape," Adisa says.

Not surprisingly, Mandog was responsible for the production on "Lowkey Lowkey"—the track featured in Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* Netflix series. In looking back, Adisa and Mandog will always see their teaming with Lee as a life-changing accomplishment.

"While it was happening, it was kind of hard to believe," Adisa says. "Mandog and I knew we made good music. But when someone of Spike Lee's stature says, 'Your art is great,' it gives you a different sense of confidence."

With his recent foray into production, Adisa admits that Mandog has been crucial in encouraging him along the way. "I didn't intend to put out a beat or anything for about a year because I figured it wouldn't be good enough," says Adisa, who only started producing in April. "But two weeks in, Mandog was like, 'Man, this is actually pretty good.'" With this encouragement, Adisa gradually began collecting his stand-out production works and putting raps over them. Eventually, he had an album's worth of material, choosing to call it *Still Shinin'*.

"It's titled *Still Shinin'* because the more we pour into ourselves and turn ourselves into a resource, the more we put ourselves in a position to shine today, tomorrow, and the day after," Adisa says. "That is essentially what this album is about."

A distinct collection of nine radio-ready rap tracks, *Still Shinin'* also features Adisa exploring new vocal territory. "In terms of sound, I think it's a lot more soulful and a lot more melodic than any of my other projects," Adisa says. All in all, the album serves as an excellent opening statement to Adisa's next chapter as an artist.

"I look at this project as my ability to stretch myself—my ability to grow and stay true to my fundamentals but also reinvent myself and be willing to grow," Adisa says. ■

SOUNDCHECK

BY IAN MCPHEE



THURSDAY // 10.18

Project Pat

247 Sky Bar

Rap legend Project Pat will be here on Thursday night and it's the perfect opportunity to check out Sky Bar for the first time, just in case you haven't yet. As a Memphis native, Pat has made a significant mark on the hip-hop scene in his double-decade career and his latest release *M.O.B.* is, to put it simply, just as good as his old shit.



FRIDAY // 10.19

G Herbo

Egyptian Room at Old National Centre

Don't miss the best thing to come from Chicago since me, when I moved back from there a few years ago: G Herbo. He released *Strictly 4 My Fans* late last year and will be taking over the Egyptian Room with Southside and Queen Key on Friday. Catch him now, 'cause I promise next time he comes through, it'll be at a bigger venue.



SATURDAY // 10.20

A Place To Bury Strangers

HI-FI

A Place To Bury Strangers released *Never Coming Back* earlier this year and I thought to myself, "Man, they're never coming back." I was wrong. So borrow some airport worker's hearing protection and head to HI-FI for the loudest fucking band in the world. Also, they're playing with S-E-R-V-I-C-E, so Happy Birthday to me!



SATURDAY // 10.20

Mike Adams at His Honest Weight

Pioneer

There are bands from Bloomington that you have to mention when talking about Indiana's music scene and most of them have a guy named Mike in them. Mike Adams at His Honest Weight is a dream-pop raft surfing the crest of the chilliest wave. They released *Casino Drone* on Joyful Noise in 2016 and they'll be at Pioneer on Saturday.



MONDAY // 10.22

THUNDERPUSSY

HI-FI

Monday night is your chance to witness the white-hot, molten rock of Seattle's THUNDERPUSSY. I cannot recommend this shit enough. Every one of their songs is a carefully crafted stadium-worthy blues anthem. (Beyonce meets Led Zeppelin.) They're on tour in support of their debut self-titled album, don't miss it. Long live the Speed Queen.

TOAST TO THE TREES

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WEDNESDAY // 10.17

Tall Heights w/ Old Sea Brigade, Frances Cone

HI-FI 7:30 p.m. \$15, 21+

Particle w/ From Another Mother
The Mousetrap 9 p.m. \$12, 21+

Ghost Mutant: Pint Night Spins
Pioneer 9 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Patrick Wright Trio
The Jazz Kitchen 7 p.m. \$10, 21+

Seafoam Green
The Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$6, 21+

The Jukebox Janes
MashCraft on Delaware
7 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

THURSDAY // 10.18

Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox
The Palladium

7:30 p.m. \$35 and up, 18+

Dorrough Music
The Vogue Theatre
8 p.m. \$25 - \$50, 21+

Hoodie Allen
Deluxe at Old National Centre
9 p.m. \$35, all-ages

Noah Kahan w/ Dean Lewis
HI-FI 8 p.m. \$17, 21+

Jake Owen
Indiana State Fairgrounds
7 p.m. \$25 and up, 18+

Avi Buffalo, Haunted Summer
Square Cat Vinyl 7 p.m. \$8, all-ages

Altered Thurzdaze w/ YOOKIE
The Mousetrap 9 p.m. \$15, 21+

David Ertel & Juice Live
Pioneer 7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Blacklist Regulars, Burning Giant
The Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

The Good Day Tour ft. Z Money & Kodie Shane
Emerson Theater 6:30 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Vanessa Collier
Slippery Noodle Inn
8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

FRIDAY // 10.19

Candlebox w/ Brent James & The Vintage Youth

Deluxe at Old National Centre
8 p.m. \$27.50 - \$40, all-ages

Plies
The Vogue Theatre
9 p.m. \$60 and up, 21+

Jakubi w/ Blue Moon Revue
HI-FI 8 p.m. \$15, 21+

Lari Pati
Pioneer 9 p.m. \$10, 21+

Awake the Wilde, Palace, Papa Warfleigh's Funk Revival

The Melody Inn 9 p.m. \$6, 21+

Adam Hood w/ Special Guest Jenny Tolman

LO-FI Lounge 7 p.m. \$12, 21+

Soft Machine ft. '70s members John Etheridge, Roy Babbington, & Gary Husband

The Irving Theater
7:30 p.m. \$40 - \$60, all-ages

Modest Mouse
Indiana University Auditorium
(Bloomington)

8 p.m. \$31.50 and up, all-ages

Big Daddy Caddy, Paul Holdman Band
Slippery Noodle Inn 8:30 p.m. \$10, 21+

Glassworld
Hoosier Dome 6:30 p.m. \$13, all-ages

SATURDAY // 10.20

Social Distortion w/ Will Hoge + Pony Bradshaw

Egyptian Room at Old National
Center 8 p.m. \$45, all-ages

Prof
Deluxe at Old National Centre
10 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Babe Club w/ Airpark
Square Cat Vinyl 8 p.m. \$8, all-ages

Flatland Harmony Experiment
Indy Folk Series 7 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Brandon Meeks Quintet ft. pianist William Menefield

The Jazz Kitchen 7:30 p.m. \$15, 21+

Walk Among Us, In Calico and The Big Bad

The Melody Inn 9 p.m. \$6, 21+

Joseph Mojo and Morganfield
Slippery Noodle Inn 8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

Mark Battles
Emerson Theater
6:30 p.m. \$20 - \$45, all-ages

Abandoned By Bears, Youth Fountain, Boys of Fall, Normundy

Hoosier Dome 6:30 p.m. \$15, all-ages

SUNDAY // 10.21

Mikaela Davis - Delivery Tour w/ Jeff Kelly and The Graveyard Shift

HI-FI 7 p.m. \$14, 21+

Hryder
The Mousetrap 9 p.m. \$10, 21+

Chamber Music
The Jazz Kitchen 7 p.m. \$10, 21+

Cocoanut Grove Lounge Hosted by DJ Souxie Snapdragon

The Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$5, 21+

We Came as Romans
Hoosier Dome 6 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Gordon Bonham Blues Band
Slippery Noodle Inn
7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

MONDAY // 10.22

Mod Sun
Deluxe at Old National Centre
8 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Zach Day & Friends
Slippery Noodle Inn
7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Songwriter's Open Mic Hosted by Chris Wolf

Square Cat Vinyl
6:30 p.m. **FREE**, all-ages

TUESDAY // 10.23

Eden w/ Sasha Sloan
Deluxe at Old National Centre
8 p.m. \$25, all-ages

Nosferat II, Chives, Think Tank
State Street Pub 9 p.m. \$5, 21+

BARFLY

DOUBLE A

I'VE DEFINITELY HAD MY RAP-FAN BATTERIES RE-CHARGED OVER THE SUMMER. PART OF IT WAS NEWER ACTS LIKE WES PERIOD, MACKLEMORE & MIKEY MIKE. BUT A LOT OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THE CHREEZE FESTIVAL, WHERE I BECAME A FAN OF A DOZEN LOCALS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AARON "DOUBLE A" MARSHALL IS AT THE TOP OF THAT LIST. HIS RHYMES ARE A RELENTLESS VERBAL BEAT DOWN. A RAPID BLAST OF WORDPLAY FULL OF SWAGGER AND THE SKILLS TO BACK IT UP. RATHER THAN NAME DROP ANOTHER RAPPER TO COMPARE HIM TO I THINK MUHAMMAD ALI IS MORE APPROPRIATE. PARAPHRASE "HE FLOWS LIKE A BUTTERFLY BUT STINGS LIKE AN O.B."

EVERY WORD & SYLLABLE ARE PERFECTLY ENUNCIATED IS A WAY THAT LEAVES ME IN SLACK-JAWED AWE OF HIS VERBAL ACROBATICS.

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BY
WAYNE BERTSCH

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): *Humraaz* is a word in the Urdu language. Its literal meaning is "secret sharer." It refers to a confidante, a person in whom you have full trust and to whom you can confess your core feelings. Is there such a character in your life? If so, seek him or her out for assistance in probing into the educational mysteries you have waded into. If there is no such helper you can call on, I advise you to do whatever's necessary to attract him or her into your sphere. A collaborative quest may be the key to activating sleeping reserves of your soul wisdom.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus author Roberto Bolaño suggests that the world contains more beauty than many people realize. The full scope and intensity of this nourishing beauty "is only visible to those who love." When he speaks of "those who love," I suspect he means deep-feeling devotees of kindness and compassion, hard-working servants of the greater good, and free-thinking practitioners of the Golden Rule. In any case, Taurus, I believe you're in a phase when you have the potential to see far more of the world's beauty. For best results, supercharge your capacity to give and receive love.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Once upon a time you were walking along a sidewalk when a fairy floated by and whispered, "I'm willing to grant you three wishy-washy wishes for free. You don't have to do any favors for me in return. But I will grant you three wonderfully wise wishes if you perform three tasks for me." You asked the fairy, "What would those three tasks be?" She replied, "The second task is that you must hoodwink the devil into allowing you to shave his hairy legs. The third task is that you must bamboozle God into allowing you to shave his bushy beard." You laughed and said, "What's the first task?" The fairy touched you on the nose with her tiny wand and said, "You must believe that the best way to achieve the impossible is to attempt the absurd."

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): You Crabs tend to be the stockpilers and hoarders of the zodiac. The world's largest collections of antique door knobs and Chinese restaurant menus and beer cans from the 1960s belong to Cancerian accumulators. But in alignment with possibilities hinted at by current astrological omens, I recommend that you redirect this inclination so it serves you better. How? One way would be to gather supplies of precious stuff that's really useful to you. Another way would be to assemble a batch of blessings to bestow on people and animals who provide you with support.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Chinese mythology tells us there used to be 10 suns, all born from the mother goddess Xi He. Every 24 hours, she bathed her brood in the lake and placed them in a giant mulberry tree. From there, one sun glided out into the sky to begin the day while the other nine remained behind. It was a good arrangement. The week had ten days back then, and each sun got its turn to shine. But the siblings eventually grew restless with the staid rhythm. On one fateful morning, with a playful flourish, they all soared into the heavens at once. It was fun for them, but the earth grew so hot that nothing would grow. To the rescue came the archer Hou Yi. With his flawless aim, he used his arrows to shoot down nine of the suns, leaving one to provide just the right amount of light and warmth. The old tales don't tell us, but I speculate that Hou Yi was a Leo.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You now have maximum command of a capacity that's a great strength but also a potential liability: your piercing brainpower. To help ensure that you wield this asset in ways that empower you and don't sabotage you, here's advice from four wise Virgos. 1. "Thought can organize the world so well that you

are no longer able to see it."—psychotherapist Anthony de Mello 2. "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable."—poet Mary Oliver 3. "I like to wake up each morning and not know what I think, that I may reinvent myself in some way."—actor and writer Stephen Fry 4. "I wanted space to watch things grow."—singer Florence Welch

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "There are works which wait, and which one does not understand for a long time," wrote Libran author Oscar Wilde. "The reason is that they bring answers to questions which have not yet been raised; for the question often arrives a long time after the answer." That's the weird news, Libra. You have been waiting and waiting to understand a project that you set in motion many moons ago. It has been frustrating to give so much energy to a goal that has sometimes confused you. But here's the good news: Soon you will finally formulate the question your project has been the answer to. And so at last you will understand it. You'll feel vindicated, illuminated, and resolved.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Many seekers who read horoscope columns want common-sense advice about love, career, money, and power. So I hope I don't disappoint you by predicting that you will soon have a mystical experience or spiritual epiphany. Let me add, however, that this delightful surprise won't merely be an entertaining diversion with no useful application. In fact, I suspect it will have the potential of inspiring good ideas about love, career, money, or power. If I had to give the next chapter of your life story a title, it might be *A Thousand Dollars' Worth of Practical Magic*.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 1962, when she was 31 years old, Sagittarian actress Rita Moreno won an Academy Award for her role in the film *West Side Story*. In 2018, she attended the Oscars again, sporting the same dress she'd worn for the ceremony 56 years before. I think the coming weeks will be a great time for you, too, to reprise a splashy event or two from the past. You'll generate soul power by reconnecting with your roots. You'll tonify and harmonize your mental health by establishing a symbolic link with your earlier self.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Committee to Reward Unsung Good Deeds hereby acknowledges your meritorious service in the trenches of the daily routine. We praise your tireless efforts to make life less chaotic and more coherent for everyone around you. We're grateful for the patience and poise you demonstrate as you babysit adults who act like children. And we are gratified by your capacity to keep long-term projects on track in the face of trivial diversions and petty complaints. I know it's a lot to ask, but could you please intensify your vigilance in the next three weeks? We need your steadiness more than ever.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need a special pep talk that's best provided by Aquarian poet Audre Lorde. Please meditate on these four quotes by her. 1. "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation." 2. "We have been raised to fear the yes within ourselves, our deepest cravings." 3. "You cannot use someone else's fire. You can only use your own. To do that, you must first be willing to believe you have it." 4. "Nothing I accept about myself can be used against me to diminish me." 5. "The learning process is something you can literally incite, like a riot."

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Warning: My horoscopes may interfere with your ability to rationalize your delusions; they could extinguish your enthusiasm for clichés; they might cause you to stop repressing urges that you really should express; and they may influence you to cultivate the state of awareness known as "playful wisdom." Do you really want to risk being exposed to such lavish amounts of inner freedom? If not, you should stop reading now. But if you're as ripe for emancipating adventures as I think you are, then get started on shedding any attitudes and influences that might dampen your urge to romp and cavort and carouse.

HOMEWORK: Forget all you know about gratitude. Act as if it's a new emotion you're tuning into for the first time. Then let it rip. Testify at Freewillastrology.com.



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